

What Makes Agriculture in San Diego Unique?

- California is #1 nationwide for farm sales.¹
 - San Diego County is #8 in the state in 2001, with a production value of \$1.3 Billion (nursery and flowers account for 66% locally).
 - Agriculture is the 4th leading industry in San Diego County.²
- There are 74,126 farms in the state of California.
 - The median state farm size is **28 acres**.
 - The median size farm in San Diego County is **5 acres**.
- With 5,925 farms, San Diego County has the second highest number of farms in the United States.
 - 3,897 farms (66%) are one – nine acres,
 - 2,128 farms (34%) are ten acres or greater. The breakdown is:
 - 1,448 (24%) 10 – 49 acres
 - 318 (5%) 50 – 179 acres
 - 143 (2%) 180 – 499 acres
 - 54 (less than 1%) 500 – 999 acres
 - 65 (less than 1%) 1,000 acres or more.
- Who are San Diego's local farmers?
 - 88% of farms are family owned.
 - 71% of farmers live on their land.
 - 59.1 is the average age of a San Diego County farmer.
 - 15% of San Diego County farms are owned by women.
 - 102,079 acres (on 38 farms) belong to American Indians, that's 61,601 more acres than any other California county.
 - American Indians hold 22% of the farmland in San Diego County.³

¹ Summary of County Agricultural Commissioner's Reports 2000-01.

² 2001 Crop Statistics & Annual Report County of San Diego, Dept. of Agriculture, Weights & Measures

³ USDA Census of Agriculture 1997

- The State Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program's minimum mapping unit for all map categories, with the exception of Grazing Land and Water area, is 10 contiguous acres.⁴
- Government is the largest landowner in San Diego County.
 - 2.73 million total acres in the County.
 - 1.66 million acres (61%) are owned by some level of government,
 - 46% federal, 37% state and 17% local.⁵
- Water has been an issue since commercial farming began in this county.
 - 2001 San Diego growers pay an average of \$650 an acre-foot, plus the pumping costs.
 - In 1990 San Diego growers paid \$190 per acre-foot.
 - In 1960 it was just \$14 per acre-foot.
- Neighboring Imperial County growers currently pay as low as \$15
- Ventura County with similar crops currently pays \$379 per acre-foot.⁶

	2001	ACRES	VALUE	1991	ACRES	VALUE
Nursery & Flower Crops		8,829	\$855,138,931		7,197	\$522,515,745
Fruit & Nut Crops		44,363	\$230,001,032		52,211	\$315,316,173
Livestock & Poultry Products			\$67,121,686			\$79,344,084
Vegetable Crops		8,036	\$111,621,875		9,382	\$79,245,084
Livestock & Poultry			\$17,465,747			\$12,864,933
Field Crops		144,812	\$6,061,349		104,000	\$5,740,298
Apiary Products			\$1,888,129			\$543,806
Specialty Crops			\$442,658			\$937,000
TOTALS		206,040	\$1,289,741,407		172,790	\$1,016,507,123²

⁴ California Department of Conservation 2002

⁵ SANGIS Land Use Data 2002

⁶ Agricultural Water Management Plan, San Diego County Water Authority, December 2001 & Agricultural Water Use Profile of San Diego County, San Diego Water Authority, August 1993